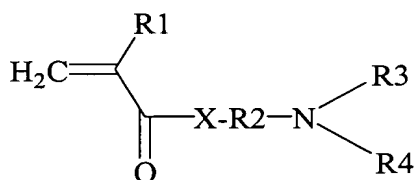


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An antimicrobial polymer blend,
characterized in that
one or more antimicrobial polymers each obtainable by polymerizing a monomer of
the formula I



where

R1 = -H or -CH₃

R2 = branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 5
carbon atoms,

R3 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to
7 carbon atoms,

R4 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to
7 carbon atoms,

R5 = H, or branched or unbranched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to
7 carbon atoms, and

X = O, NH, NR5

are mixed with at least one other polymer other than cellulose acetate butyrate and
polyesters.

Claim 2 (Original): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 90% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the monomer used of the formula I is 2-tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-dimethylaminomethyl methacrylate, 2-tert-butylaminoethyl acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N-3-dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-diethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide, or N-3-diethylaminopropylacrylamide.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ + claim 2, characterized in that the monomer used of the formula I is 2-tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-dimethylaminomethyl methacrylate, 2-tert-butylaminoethyl acrylate, 3-dimethylaminopropyl acrylate, 2-diethylaminoethyl acrylate, 2-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N-3-dimethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-diethylaminopropylmethacrylamide, N-3-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide, or N-3-diethylaminopropylacrylamide.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the other polymer used comprises polyurethanes, polyolefins, polyethylene, polypropylene, poly-siloxanes, polystyrene, polyacrylates, polymethylmethacrylate, PVC, polyamides or polyterephthalates.

Claims 6-12 (Cancelled):

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the monomer of formula I comprises acryloyloxyamines ($X = O$).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the monomer of formula I comprises alkylaminoacrylamides ($X = NH$).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein R3 and/or R4 is hydrocarbon.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 70% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the polymer blend is composed of from 0.2 to 10% by weight of one or more antimicrobial polymers.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The antimicrobial polymer blend of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial polymers are prepared by free-radical polymerization of monomers of formula I in solution using a free-radical initiator.